

# A Focus on Success The Modern Michigan Department of Corrections

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Committed to Protect,  
Dedicated to Success



# What is Offender Success?

Punishment vs. Incapacitation vs. Rehabilitation?

The MDOC's answer: A joint focus on near-term public safety from our operations and long-term public safety from achieving Offender Success.

Offender Success, which was developed by the MDOC, was formally adopted as the MDOC's model in 2015. The foundation of this model is to provide offenders with programming, education, and opportunities to become self-sufficient, positive members of their respective communities as a means of reducing crime producing public safety.

# Understanding the MDOC

- The MDOC is more than just prisons.
  - Probation (43,000), Prison (38,693), and Parole (13,000)
- 30 Correctional Facilities, 105 Field Offices, 13,000 employees.
  - Roughly  $\frac{1}{2}$  of MDOC employees are not engaged in direct custody functions.
    - Educators, Healthcare Providers, Mental Health Providers, Field Agents, Offender Success Staff, Accountants, Food Service, etc.
- The MDOC represents 20% of Michigan's General Fund budget and about 3.6% of Michigan's total budget.
- The Department impacts every community within the state.

# The Role of the MDOC Within the Criminal Justice System

## MDOC Directly Controls

- Prisoner Programming Opportunities
- Placement/Classification of Prisoners within the MDOC
- When a Prisoner will Parole after Minimum Sentence Completed
- If a Parolee will Return to Prison for a Technical Violation of Parole
- If an Offender will Discharge Prior to Their Maximum Sentence

## MDOC Does Not Control

- What Constitutes a Criminal Violation of the Law
- Who is Sentenced to Prison
- How Many People are Sentenced to Prison
- The Prisoner's Minimum and Maximum Sentence
- If a Parolee will Return to Prison for a New Offense While on Parole

# The Role of the MDOC Within the Criminal Justice System

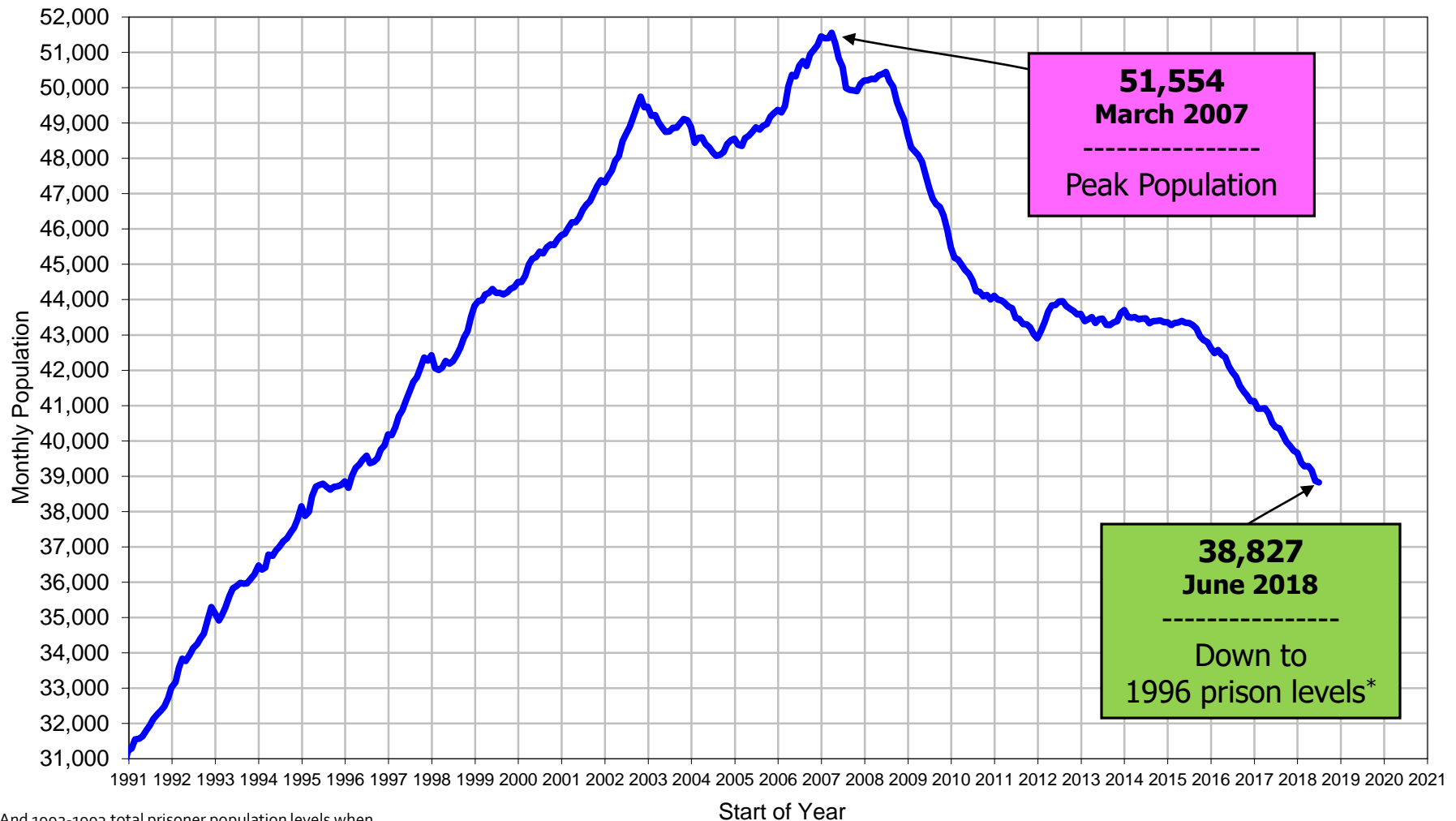
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## The MDOC Can Influence the Following:

- The Availability of Diversion Programs (Community Corrections)
- The Sentencing Recommendation of the MDOC (Straddle Cells)
- The Recommendations for Probation Violation Sanctions
- The Supports Available to Parolees
- Legislative Reforms that Impact the Prison, Probation, and Parole Populations

After growth of 20,000+ inmates in 16 years, a decline of 8,650 in 5 years, and 3 years of stability, the prison population decline continues.

Michigan Department of Corrections  
**ACTUAL PRISON POPULATION SINCE 1991**



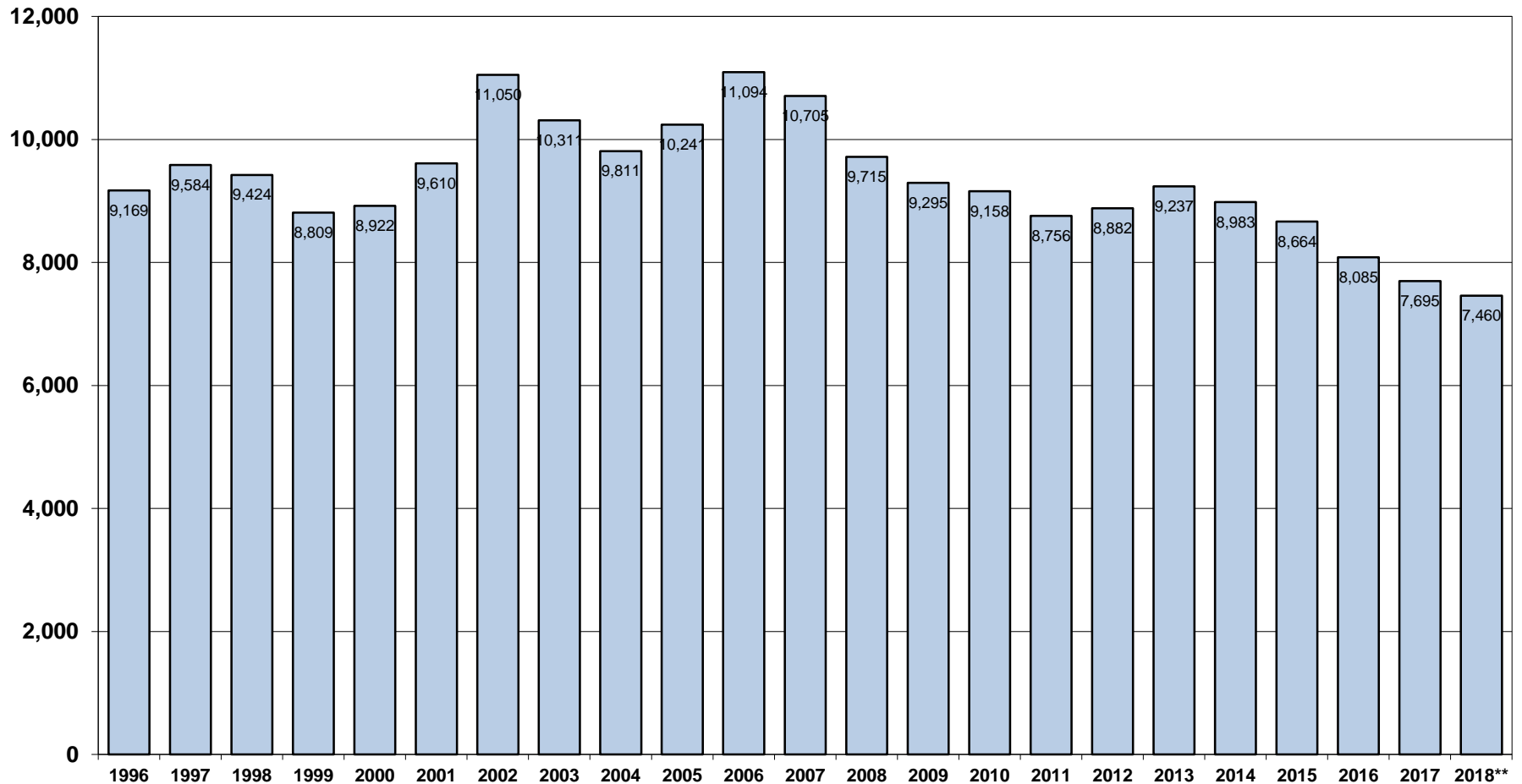
\*And 1992-1993 total prisoner population levels when Michigan had halfway houses (CRP)

# Who Goes to Prison?

- Roughly 20% of felony dispositions result in a prison sentence
- Offense Types: Assaultive – 43%, Non-Assaultive (excluding drugs) – 42%, Drug Offenses – 15%
- Race: White – 53%, Non-White – 47%
- Age: 19 and under – 5.4%, 20-29 – 37%, 30-39 – 29%, 40 and over – 28.3%.

**Front End Impact:** Annual prison intake decreased by 21% from 2007 to 2011 and then increased for 2 years. Through June 2018, the decline since 2013 continues, to levels not seen since before 1988.

Michigan Department of Corrections  
Prison Intake\*



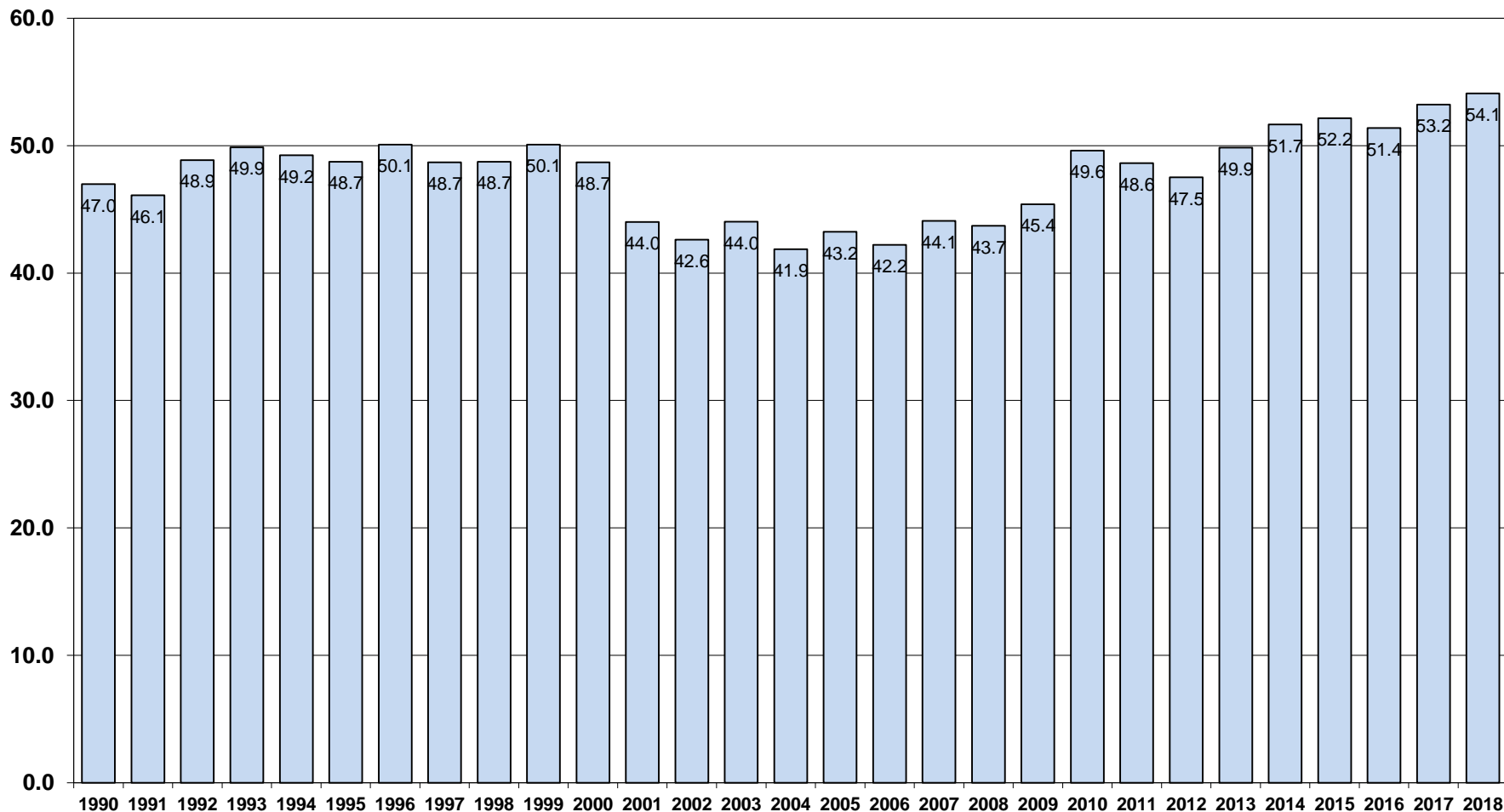
\*Includes new court commitments, probation violators (technical or new sentence), parole violators new sentence, and escapee new sentence.

\*\* 2018 data through June extrapolated to full year.



**Impact on Length of Stay:** The average minimum term shows the influence of the surge in 13-24 month minimums in the 2000's and the steady impact of the 61+ month minimums.

Michigan Department of Corrections  
**Prison Intake by Average Cumulative Minimum Term in Months**



\*\* 2018 data through June.

# What Happens While In Prison?

- A lot. . .
  - Healthcare
  - Mental Health
  - Volunteer Programs
  - Work
  - Leisure Time
  - Count
  - Preparing for Reentry

# Education and Programming

## The Foundations for Success

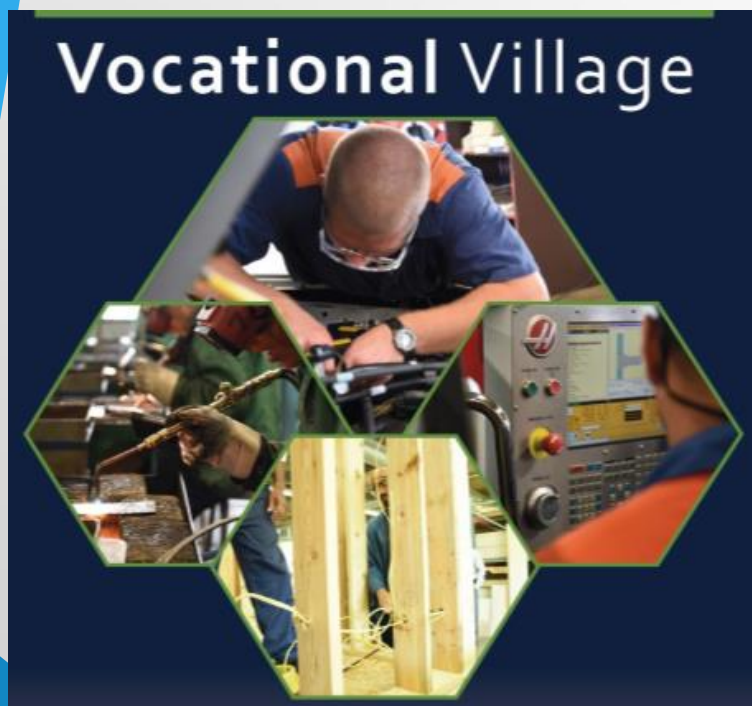
- What Will Time in Prison be Used to Accomplish?
  - Education
    - High School Equivalency
    - Career and Technical Education
    - Post Secondary
    - Employment Readiness
  - Programming
    - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
    - Violence Prevention Programming
    - Batterer's Intervention
    - Substance Abuse Programming
    - Sex Offender Programming

# Correctional Education – Michigan's Largest Provider of Adult Education

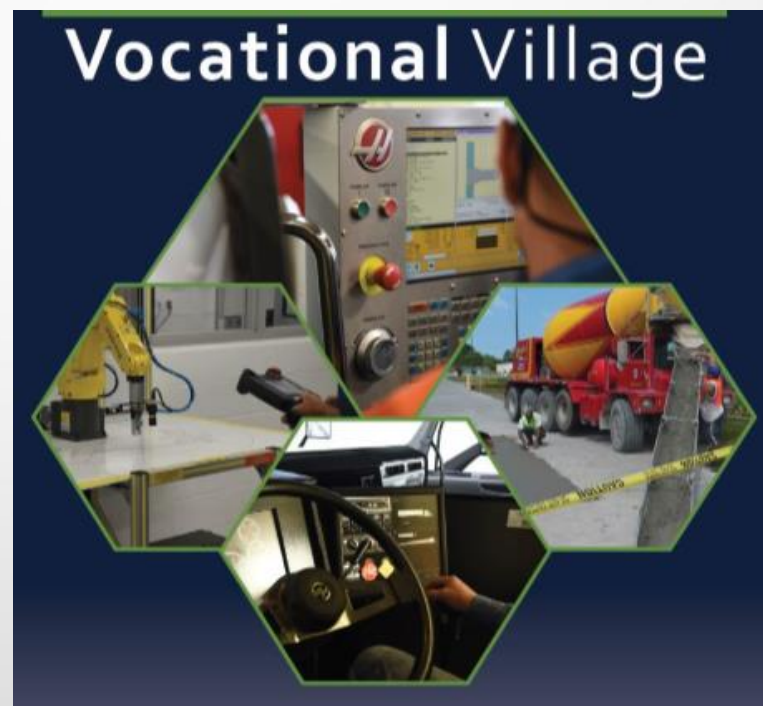
- Operate 30 schools statewide
- Approximately 7,500 prisoners are in school on any given day
- Roughly 15 different trades offered by the MDOC, with 5 new trades in development
- A Focus on Workforce Development
- Over 700 prisoners actively engaged in college programming (without state funding support)

# Vocational Villages

Handlon Correctional Facility



Parnall Correctional Facility



# Vocational Villages

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBoLYPIItXs>
- Prisoners apply to participate
- Must meet screening requirements
- Participants live in dedicated housing units
- Simulate a full days work schedule
- Employer job fairs and tours to show our programs
- Employment Counselors work directly with employers and students to facilitate job interviews while still incarcerated

# What is the Purpose of Prisoner Programming?

- The goal of the criminal justice system is to hold individuals accountable while making the community safe.
- Incarceration has a near-term “incapacitation” impact, but there is no literature that shows that simply being incarcerated reduces the likelihood of future offenses.
- The focus must be on helping individuals understand their thoughts, feelings, and actions so that better, safer decisions can occur in the future.

# Principles of Effective Intervention

Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR)



**Risk principle**

How much intervention?



**Need principle**

What to target or change?



**Responsivity principle**

How to intervene?



# Criminogenic Needs

- Anti-Social Cognition
- Anti-Social Peers
- Anti-Social Personality
- Family
- Substance Abuse
- Employment
- Education
- Leisure/Recreation

# Programming Waitlist Update

2013

Program	Post-ERD Non-PVT	ERD to Six Months	Six Months to One Year	Total
VPP	382		784	1,166
MSOP	399		568	967
T4C	123		251	374

Current

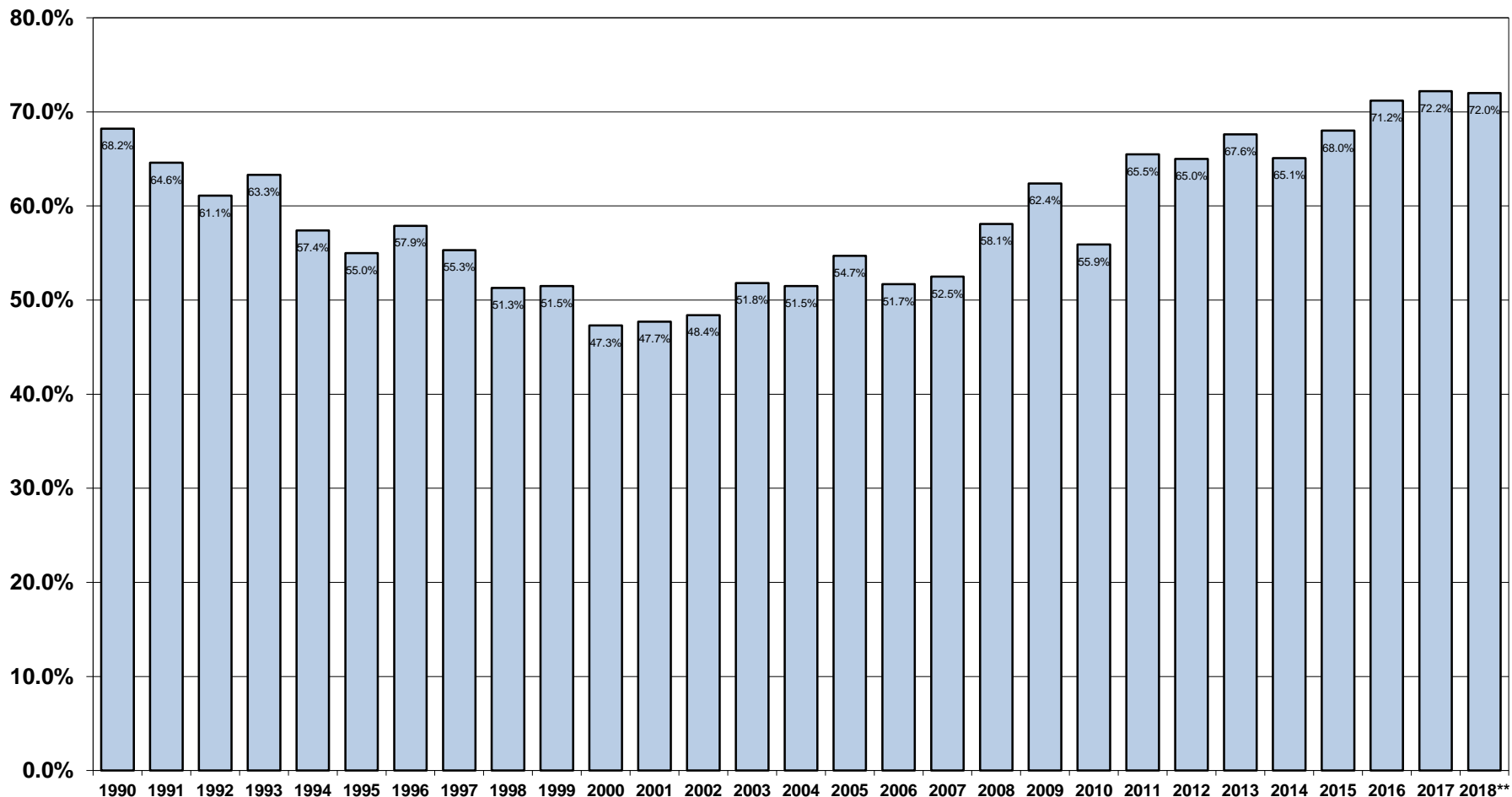
Program	Post-ERD Non-PVT	ERD to Six Months	Six Months to One Year	Total
VPP	81	63	158	302
MSOP	68	71	61	200
T4C	41	46	333	420

# What the MDOC Has Done to Improve Programming

- The Department has increased programming resources
- The MDOC now tracks programming waitlists on a statewide basis.
- The MDOC transfers prisoners between facilities to maximize programming opportunities.
- The Department ensures prisoners placed in programming have a “hold” that cannot be broken by the facility.
- Specialists review individual cases where recommendations may be incorrect and work with the Parole Board to correct them.
- Continuous Quality Assurance activities occur to ensure core programming fidelity.

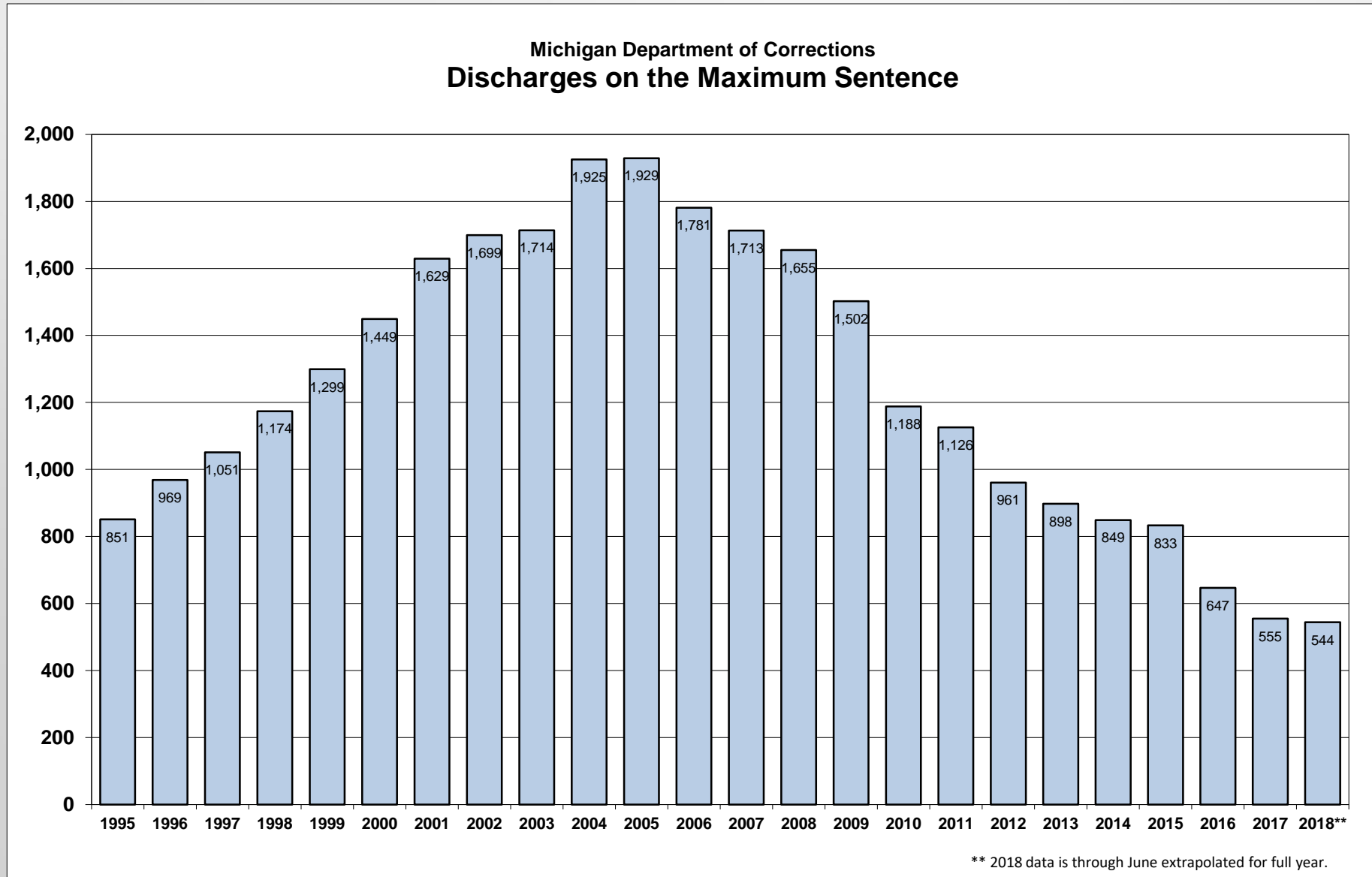
**Impact on Length of Stay:** The parole approval rate edged up in 2016 and 2017 as first hearing prisoners become more prepared to successfully reenter society before PB review.  
As of June 2018, the higher trend continues.

Michigan Department of Corrections  
**Parole Approval Rate**

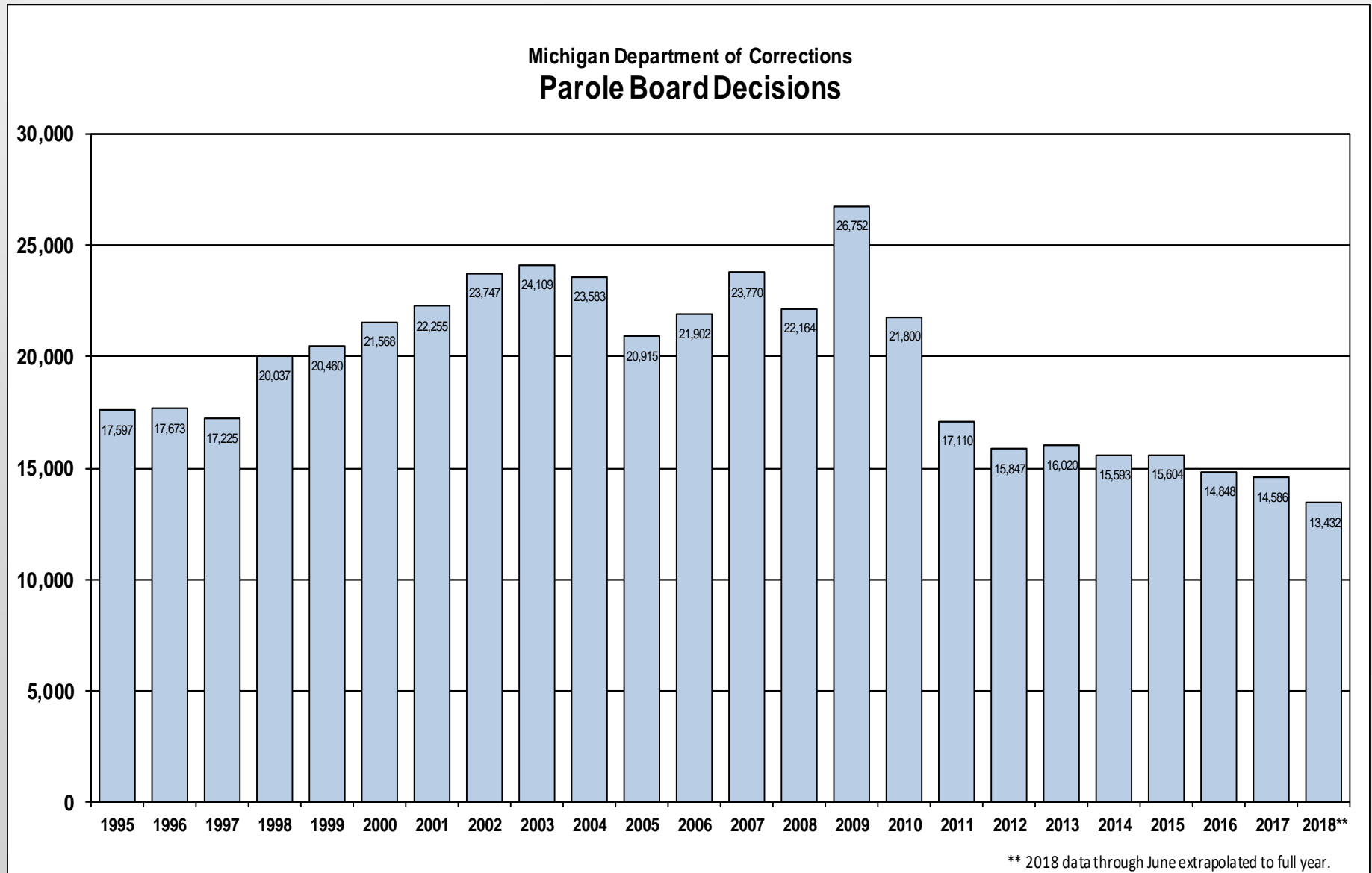


\*\* 2018 data is through June.

**Impact on Releases:** Since peaking in 2005, discharges on the maximum continue over a decade of decline due to the higher parole approval rate.



**Impact on Releases:** After a record high in 2009, PB decisions are lower as prisoners are more prepared to successfully reenter society at their first parole hearing resulting in fewer subsequent hearings.

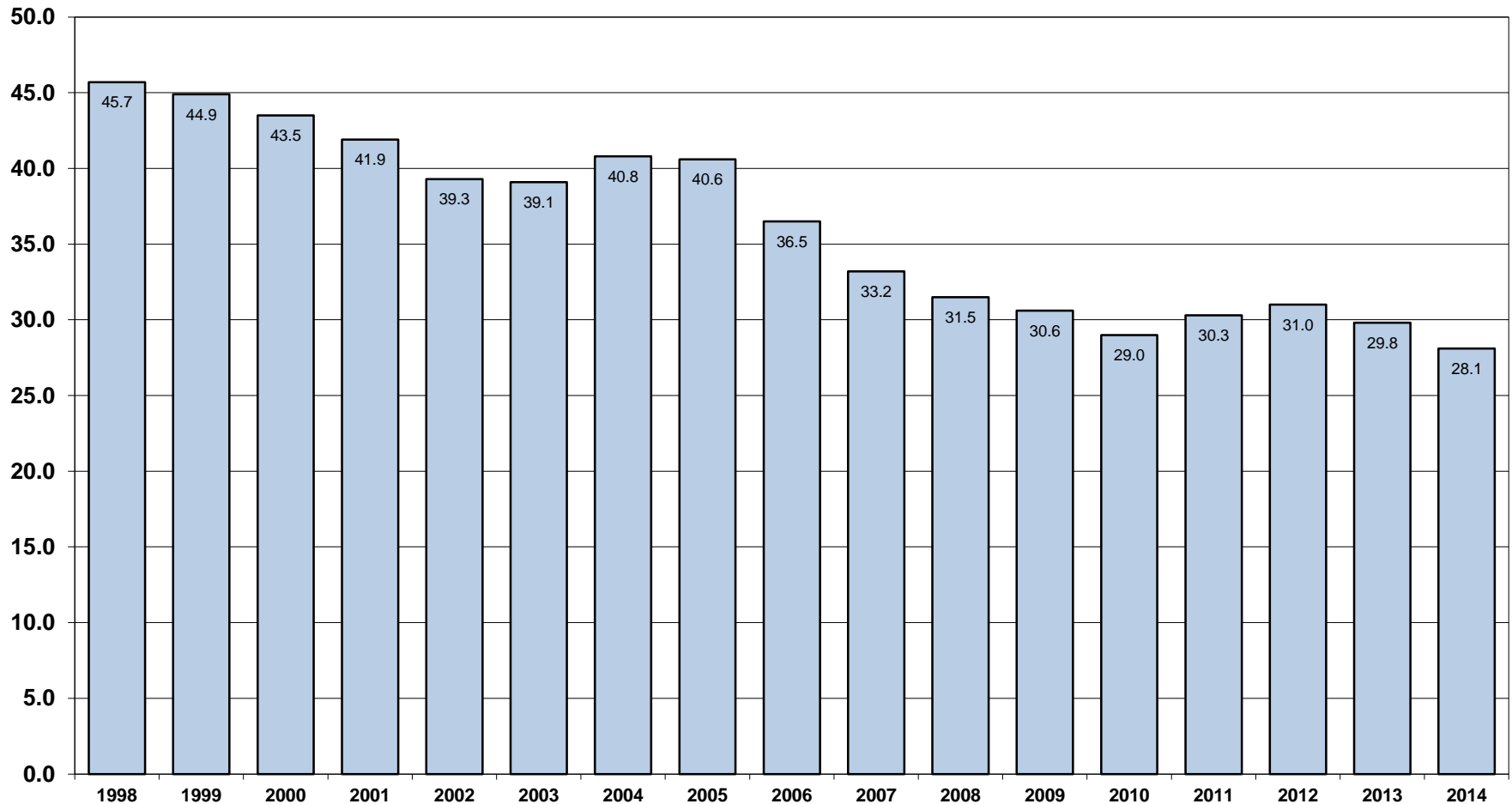


# Return to the Community

- The MDOC works with 11 Offender Success Administrative Agencies to provide reentry supports to parolees. Categories of support include:
  - Residential Stability
  - Job Placement
  - Social Support
  - Health and Behavioral Health
- Michigan is one of the first states to utilize performance-based contracts for Reentry.
- Additional supports are available for specialized populations.

**Impact on Returns:** Since establishing the baseline for recidivism in 1998, there has been continuing improvement with a fairly stable rate between 2008 and 2013 in the 29%-32% range. The Return to Prison Rate for 2014 paroles hit an all-time low of 28.1% (placing Michigan in the top 10 states in the country).

Michigan Department of Corrections  
Return to Prison Rate\*

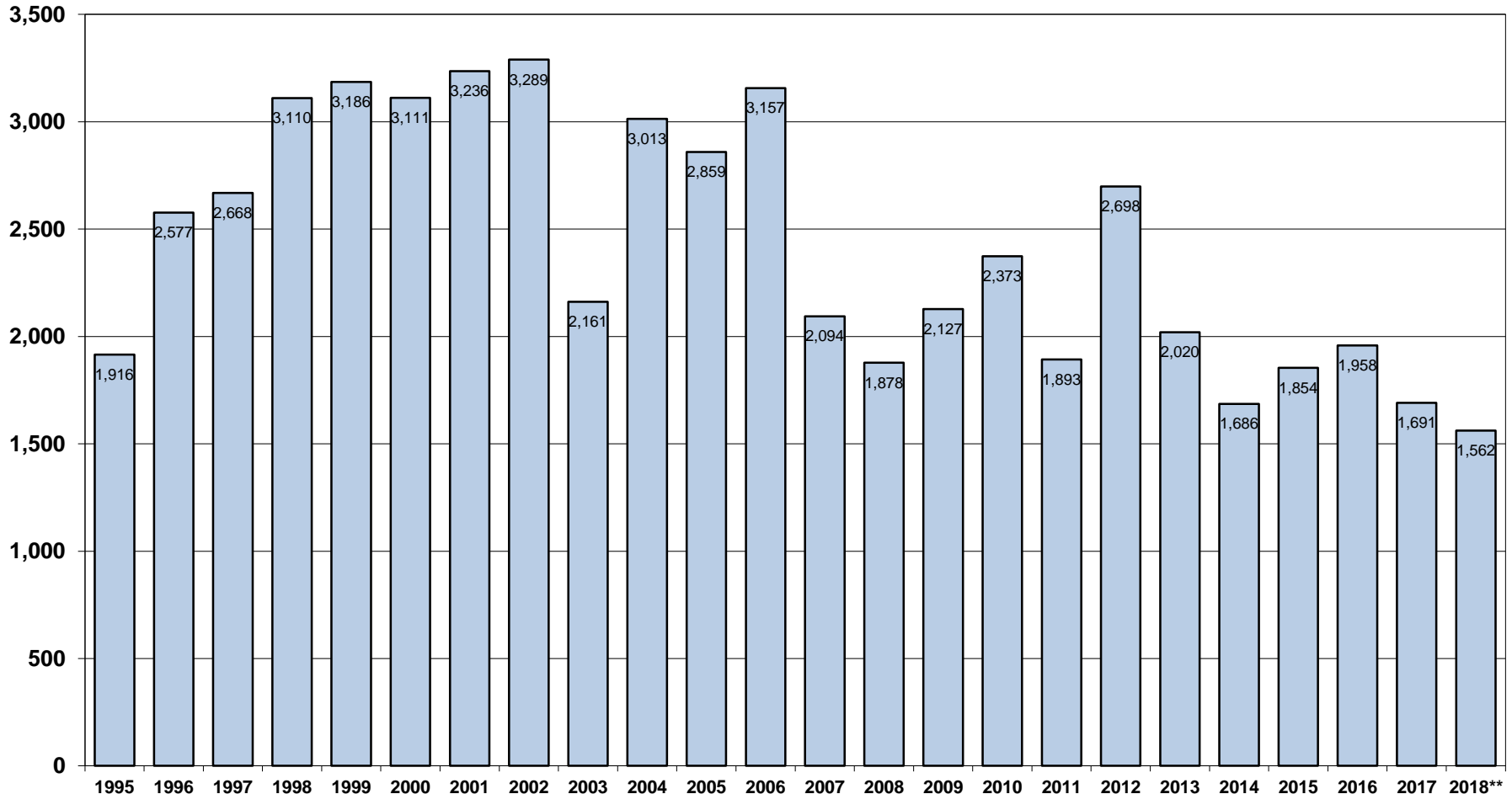


\* Includes cases that were returned to prison on Parole Technical Violations or for a New Sentence within three years of parole release.



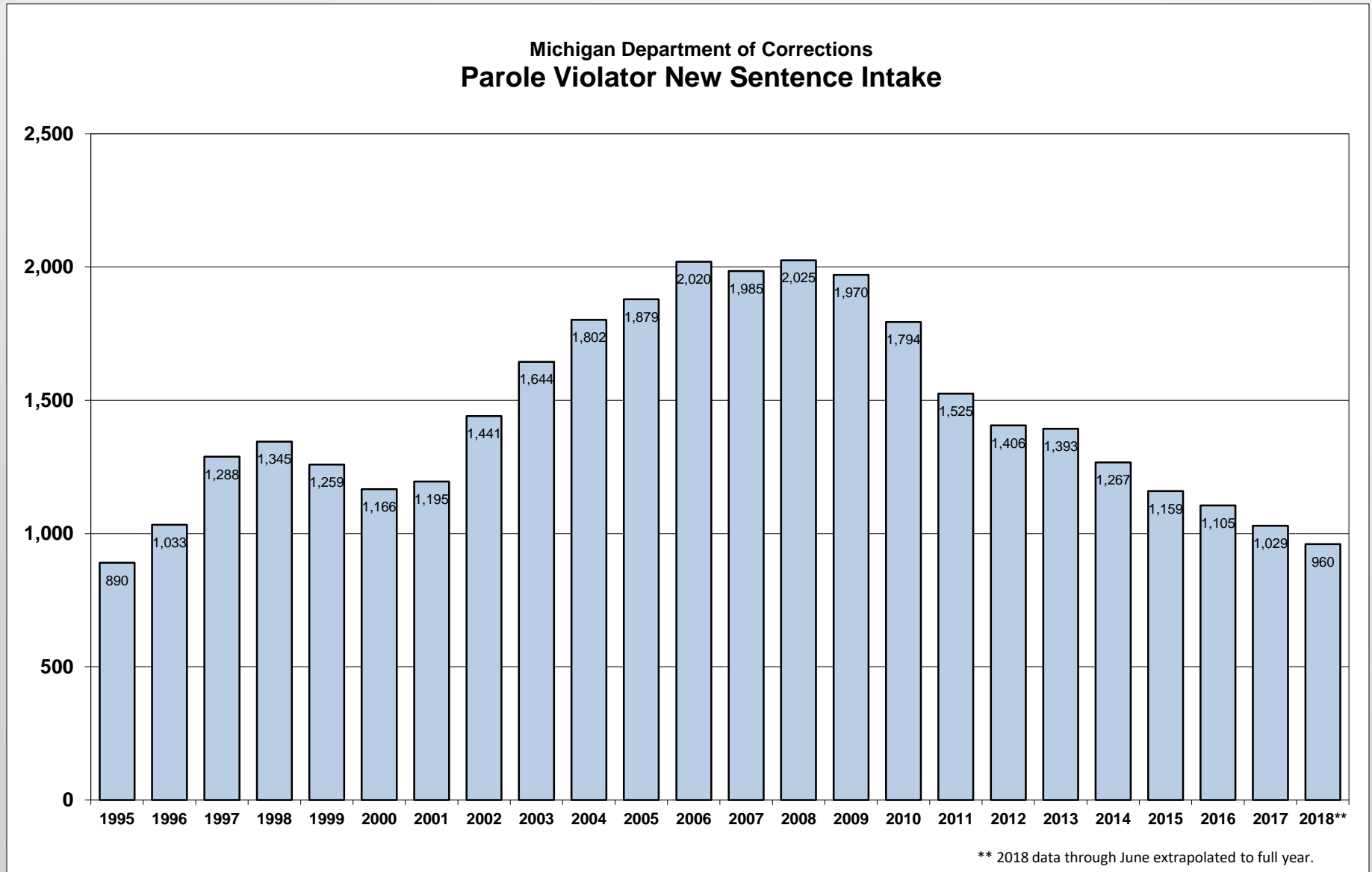
**Impact on Returns:** Parole technical violator returns to prison have returned to twenty year lows and are down over 50% from the 2002 high.

Michigan Department of Corrections  
**Parole Technical Violator Returns to Prison**

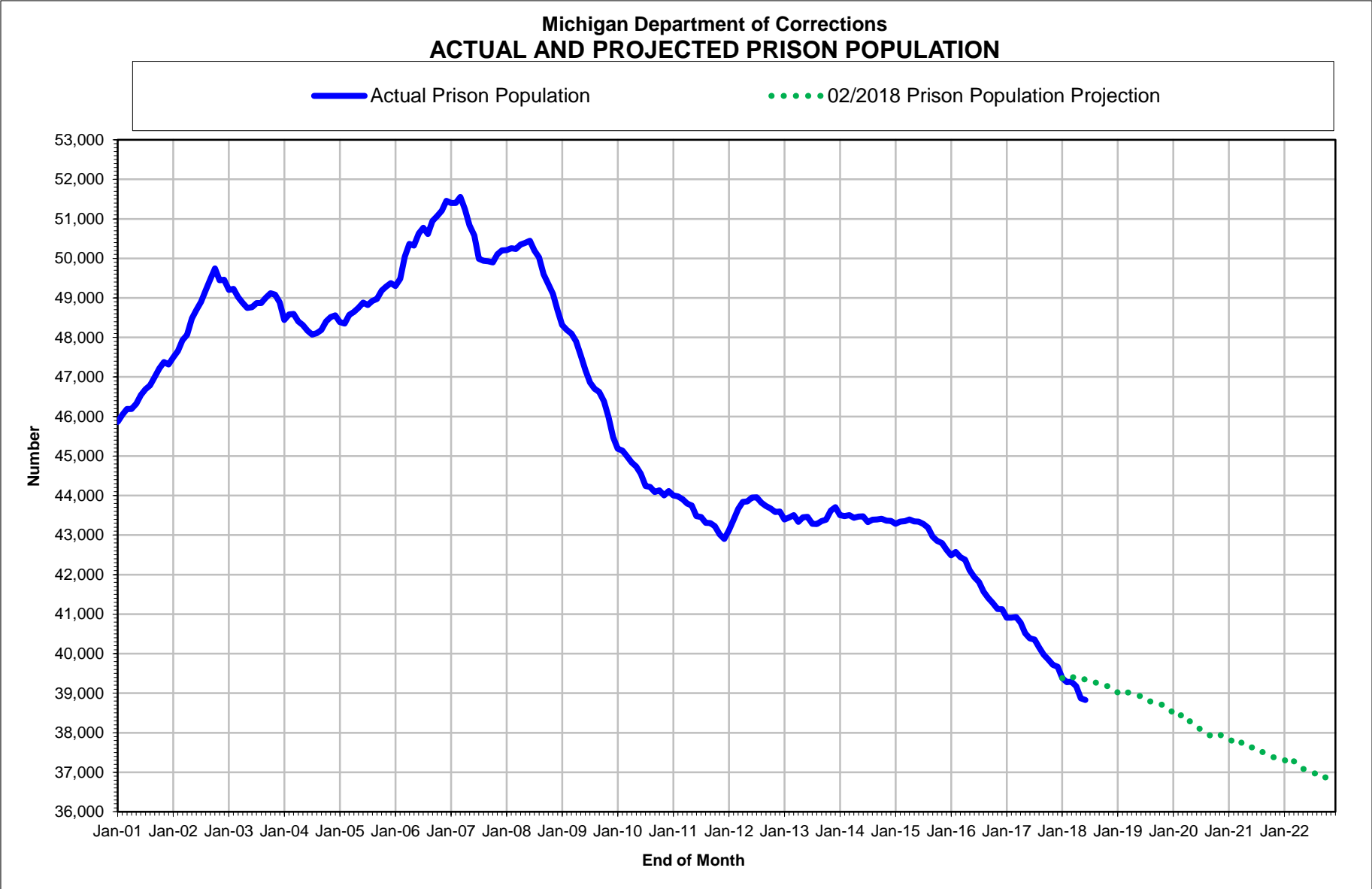


\*\* 2018 data through June extrapolated to full year.

**Impact on Returns:** The parole violator new sentence (PVNS) intake resulting from new felony prosecutions continues its decline for the tenth year.



The new prison population projection anticipates a continued but slowing decline as a baseline forecast absent any new initiatives.



# What are the Results of Offender Success?

- Today there are roughly 5,000 fewer people in Michigan's prisons compared to the day when the model was implemented.
- The MDOC has closed 3 prisons since Offender Success was launched, savings taxpayers over \$70m per year.
- Parole rates are at an all time high, parolee employment is at its highest levels since we began tracking it, and recidivism is at an all time low, showing that this approach to corrections can produce results.
- Programming and educational opportunities have been increased in prisons.
- For the first time in decades, space is being added to prisons not for additional beds, but for additional programs.

# What is the Future of Corrections?

- The advancement of criminal justice policy is often more of a pendulum than a straight line.
- Stakeholders in Michigan have still not fully grappled with the policies that resulted in the significant increase in the prison population.
- While the prison population is declining, the specialized populations within the MDOC (elderly, mentally ill, substance use disorder, etc.) appear to be increasing.
- The MDOC will approach the natural “floor” for prisoners over the next five years absent changes to the law or the creation of new initiatives.



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